Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 46, 65, 66, and 73-75 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-35.   (cancelled)

36.   (currently amended): A system comprising:

a server configured to process business transactions;

a domain manager;

a middleware program communicatively coupled to the server, wherein the middleware program comprises a domain file, ~~wherein~~ the domain file comprising a plurality of serialized files generated by the domain manager from a domain source file, the domain source file comprising source definitions for a plurality of domains required by the system to process the business transaction, wherein each of the plurality of serialized files comprises a list of allowable values of a domain associated with one or more business transactions;

a channel communicatively coupled to the middleware program and to the server; and

an interface program communicatively coupled to the channel and to the middleware program, wherein the interface program is configured to receive data from the channel and to receive a command that will initiate a business transaction and transmit the command to the middleware program;

wherein the interface program receives the data from the channel and transmits the data to the middleware program; wherein the middleware program determines whether portions of the

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received data include allowable values based on <u>one of plurality of serialized files</u> the domain file, and wherein the middleware program transforms the data into a form required by the server and transmits the transformed data to the server, wherein the server performs the business transaction after the command to initiate the business transaction has been transmitted to the middleware program and the transformed data is transmitted to the server.

37.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the middleware program receives a result from the business transaction server and transfers the result to the interface program.

38.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the channel comprises a kiosk.

39.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the channel comprises a computer terminal.

40.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the channel comprises a telephone call center.

41.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the channel comprises an electronic data transfer system.

42.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein a local area network communicatively couples the channel to the server.

43.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein a wide area network communicatively couples the channel to the server.

44.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein portions of the domain file may be changed without changing code of the middleware program.

45.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the middleware program generates an error code if the portions of the received data include values that are not allowable values.

46.   (cancelled)

47.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the middleware program transfers data to a plurality of business transaction servers during the processing of a business transaction.

48.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the middleware program comprises computer code written in an object-oriented programming language.

49.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the middleware program is extendable without altering source code of the middleware program.

50.   (previously presented): The system of claim 49, wherein an extension to the middleware program comprises computer code that is stored in a package and run when the middleware program runs.

51.   (currently amended): A carrier medium that stores program instructions, ~~wherein the carrier medium comprises at least one file that stores a list of allowable values,~~ wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement a method comprising:

receiving data from one interface program of a plurality of interface programs, wherein each interface program is communicatively coupled to one of a plurality of channels, wherein the data is received by the interface program from the channel to which it is coupled;

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determining whether a portion of received data includes values in ~~the~~ a list of allowable values in a serialized file using the middleware program, wherein the serialized file is one of a plurality of serialized files in a domain file generated by a domain manager from a domain source file, the domain source file comprising source definitions for a plurality of domains required by a system to process a business transaction, wherein each of the plurality of serialized files comprises a list of allowable values of a domain associated with one or more business transactions;

if the portion of received data does not include values in a list of allowable values, notifying the user interface and receiving corrected data;

~~after determining that~~ if the portion of received data includes values in a list of allowable values, ~~flattening the data;~~ transforming the data into a form required by the business transaction server using the middleware program and transferring the ~~flattened~~ transformed data to a business transaction server;

wherein the program instructions comprise a plurality of objects, wherein at least one of the plurality of objects is used in determining whether the portion of received data includes values in a list of allowable values.

52.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein the channel comprises a kiosk.

53.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein the channel comprises a computer terminal.

54.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein the channel comprises a telephone call center.

55.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein the channel comprises an electronic data transfer system.

56.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein a local area network communicatively couples the channel to the server.

57.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein a wide area network communicatively couples the channel to the server.

58.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, further comprising a separate set of computer instructions that extend the functionality of the set of computer instructions.

59.   (cancelled).

60.   (previously presented): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

indent receiving a result from the business transaction server;

indent inflating the result; and

indent transferring the result to the interface program.

61.   (currently amended): A method of performing a business transaction on a computer system using a user interface program, a middleware program ~~comprising a domain file~~, and a business transaction server, the method comprising: .

indent entering data into a channel that communicatively couples to the user interface;

indent transferring the data to the middleware program;

indent providing a domain file, the domain file comprising a plurality of serialized files generated by a domain manager from a domain source file, the domain source file comprising source definitions for a plurality of domains required by the computer system to perform the

business transaction, wherein each of the plurality of serialized files comprises a list of allowable

values of a domain associated with one or more business transactions;

determining whether a portion of the data includes values in a list of allowable values in

one of the serialized files~~the domain file~~using the middleware program, ~~wherein~~

if the portion of the data does not include values in a list of allowable values, notifying

the user interface~~,~~ and receiving corrected data;

~~after determining that~~ if the portion of the data includes values in a list of allowable

values~~;~~

transforming the data into a form required by the business transaction server using

the middleware program;

transferring the transformed data to the business transaction server using the

middleware program; and

processing the transformed data using the business transaction server.

62.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising transferring results

from the business transaction server to the middleware program, and transferring results from the

middleware program to the user interface.

63.   (previously presented): The method of claim 62, wherein the middleware program

transforms the results into a form recognizable to the user interface program before transmitting

the results to the user interface.

64.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising generating an error

code if an entered data value is not included in the list of allowable values.

65.   (cancelled)

66.   (cancelled)

67.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the middleware program determines if all required data to process the business transaction is present before transferring the data to the business transaction server, and wherein the middleware program generates an error code if all the required data is not present before the data is transferred to the business transaction server.

68.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the middleware program orders the data into an order required by the business transaction server before transferring the data to the business transaction server.

69.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the middleware program transfers data to and receives results from a plurality of business transaction servers during processing of the business transaction.

70.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the business transaction server comprises a legacy program.

71.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising determining if the received data comprises data required to perform the initiated business transaction.

72.   (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising placing the received data in order prior to transferring the data to the server.

73.   (cancelled)

74.   (cancelled)

75.   (cancelled)

76.   (new): The system of claim 36, wherein the middleware program overrides an order of data of an object model with an order of data required by the business transaction server before transferring the data to the business transaction server.

77.   (new): The carrier medium of claim 51, wherein the middleware program overrides an order of data of an object model with an order of data required by the business transaction server before transferring the data to the business transaction server.

78.   (new): The method of claim 61, wherein the middleware program overrides an order of data of an object model with an order of data required by the business transaction server before transferring the data to the business transaction server.